WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 8, NO. 8 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | DECEMBER 1997

"I still believe the only chance for the human race to survive is to give up such pleasures as war, racism, and private profit." Pete Seeger

TESC Northwest Food Services Honors Boycott

Celebrate a Victory for Farmworkers

Jason Powers & Alec Hamilton

The political organizations of EPIC (The Evergreen Political Information Center), MEChA (Chicano Student Movement), LASO (Latin American Students Organization), and PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste) as well as the Olympia community are celebrating the removal of Gardenburger brand vegetable burgers from the Evergreen State College campus. A student organization on the campus has been working with PCUN, the farmworkers union in Oregon.

PCUN started in 1985 with 80 farmworkers and now has over 4300 registered members (about 10% of the farmworkers in Oregon). It is a civil rights organization primarily focused on stopping the inhumane treatment of farmworkers. The organization also runs a farmworker service center that gives support and advocacy to their members in immigration cases, workers' compensation and wage claims, English language classes and citizenship classes. In addition, they are involved in building low income housing as an alternative to labor camps and have organized a women's project.

NORPAC, the primary target of PCUN, is a food processing cooperative owned by over 250 growers in the Willamette Valley. They produce FLAV-R-PAC frozen foods and Santiam canned goods. Gardenburger, distributed by NORPAC, is an alternative meatless burger and is carried by Northwest Food Services who holds a contract with Evergreen. Northwest Food Services stopped shipping the product to the school last year upon being told of the boycott and recently signed a petition saying they would not carry it here. As far as we know, however, they are still carrying the product and catering it to other clients. This victory is everyone's, but it is particularly special to the men, women and children farmworkers faced with violated civil rights that jeopardizes their way of life. We must take a Polaroid of this victory to keep under our belts and in our hearts so we can take the initiative where help and involvement are needed.

PCUN started in 1985 with 80 farmworkers and now has over 4300 registered members (about 10% of the farmworkers in Oregon).

The inhumane conditions that these workers face include low wages, unclean and overcrowded living conditions, long hours, no overtime pay, no paid breaks, working with dangerous pesticides (some of which are not EPA approved) and the threat of immediate dismissal, physical retaliation and eviction for speaking out. Plus, NORPAC is not required to recognize farmworkers unions because farmworkers are not covered under the National Labor Relations Act, which gives most workers the right of collective bargaining.

So far, the boycott has been endorsed by 60 organizations, including the United Farm Workers of America, the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, the National Farm Worker Ministry and over 16 labor unions. The support is strong, but only an effective boycott can force NORPAC, who up until now has been unwilling to acknowledge PCUN, to the bargaining table. As long as the growers still profit from this mistreatment of their workers, they have no incentive to negotiate. So much remains to be done.

If you would like to get involved you can find information at PCUN's website: www.pcun.org or e-mail them at FarmworkerUnion@pcun.org. You can also write or call them at: 300 Young St. Woodburn, OR 97071; 503/982-0243. In Olympia information and involvement is possible through the student organization on the Third Floor of the CAB building at TESC, which meets at 4pm on Mondays, and a group at the Liberation Cafe that meets on Saturday (call 753-4390 or dates and times).

Also you can boycott Gardenburger and FLAV-R-PAC and urge your friends, relatives, church, workplace, school and favorite restaurant to do the same.

Some alternatives include Boca Burgers, Earthling Burgers, Morningstar Farms, and Nature Burgers.

Another effective strategy would be to e-mail Gardenburger at: whfi5@mail.easystreet.com. Tell them to stop using NORPAC as a distributor because of the company's human rights violations.

ED NOTE: Both Olympia Food Co-ops honor the boycott of NORPAC.

Protesting at the APEC Conference

Sonya Sivesind

"To resist is to win," says Xanana Gusmao, East Timorese resistance leader. Thousands of people were resisting in Vancouver B.C. during the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation leader's summit November 21-25. Resisting because of the globalization, colonialism, privatization, human rights violations, and neoliberal policies that this cooperation of eighteen "economies" embrace.

Many groups in BC organized various marches, conferences, actions and cultural events during the summit. The political beliefs of these groups varied from conservative anti-Tibet Independence movements to liberal attempts at engaging with APEC, to radical civil disobedience in direct opposition to APEC and its principles.

There was a great showing of support from Olympia, as close to 30 of us came to protest and learn about who APEC affects. A group of 16 from Evergreen groups ASIA, EPIC, and no to APEC, concentrated our energies on the activities planned by APEC Alert, at the UBC (University of British Columbia) campus. Sunday night, a large group of students took over the Student Union Building. This occupation included taking down vendor stalls, chalking the walls, windows, and bathrooms with anti-APEC slogans, preparing the building for the next day's teach in, and sleeping there. An excellent component of the events at UBC was this day of teach-ins. There were panel discussions on many issues affected by APEC, including: indigenous struggles, labor, women, local issues, globalization, education and privatization. The speakers for these panels were knowledgeable, well researched, radical, and engaging. People who had attended the other conferences over the weekend felt this day of education was by far the most beneficial.

Monday and Tuesday (Nov. 24-25) were the most intense as far as police brutality and civil disobedience. It was the largest security operation in Canada's history with over 2000 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), over 200 riot police, and secret service from around the world. At all of the actions on campus force and intimidation were used through the use of pepper spray, attack dogs, threats of tear gas, and snipers positioned atop school buildings. There were many tangible metaphors of who has power in our society. A clear example of this for me was when an APEC Alert and East Timor Alert Network (ETAN) organizer, Jaggi Singh, was arrested as he walked to a panel discussion. The plain clothed cops who threw him to the ground and into an unmarked car had a warrant for his arrest because two and a half weeks earlier, Singh had allegedly hurt a cops ear by speaking too loudly into a megaphone. A spontaneous protest erupted as 250 people marched to the RCMP station on campus chanting, "Free Jaggi, Arrest Suharto!" Jaggi, a social justice activist was in jail for causing a sore ear, while Suharto, a brutal dictator, who is responsible for the genocide of East Timor and the death of over 800,000 Indonesians, was free and being treated as an honored guest. Protesters from ETAN attempted to make a citizens arrest of Suharto, charging him with crimes against humanity, but 17 were arrested as supporters yelled to the police, "who are you protecting?" While much attention was placed on the human rights violations of leaders like Jiang Zemin of China and General Suharto of Indonesia, there was also a great deal of discussion around the role of Canada, the US, and other "first world" countries in APEC. Prime Minister Chretien and Clinton's complacency around issues of human rights, their country's colonization of indigenous peoples, pushing forward a neoliberal agenda at home and abroad, and their support for the corporitization of public education were all pointed to.

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As the summit drew to a close, over 70 protesters had been arrested, 2 people had been bitten by police dogs, dozens had been pepper sprayed, one person hospitalized, several students had guns pointed at them, and $50 million was spent on the summit. Among the many actions which gathered great public support against APEC, the March for Global Justice downtown on Sunday, and the Crash the Summit March at the UBC campus on Tuesday, had an estimated 6,000 and 4,000 protesters respectively, sending a strong message to the political leaders, CEOs, and the world, that APEC does not have the public's support, and will continue to meet great resistance until it is dismantled.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, worksinprogress@juno.com, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located in the back of the Liberation Cafe.

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index.

WIP is also being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Dec. 19st

6pm at Liberation Cafe

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 23th
7 pm at Liberation Cafe

WORKS IN PROGRESS:
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LETTERS, ETC.

How to Become an Armchair Advocate

by Lorrie Kovell

I wrote recently about my experience speaking up in support of gay and lesbian issues at the Tumwater City Council meeting.

It felt so good to be on the public record as a citizen supporting fair and equal treatment of people, it was exhilarating.

However, I realize many parents, families, and friends may not yet be comfortable with speaking up publicly.

Fortunately, you can still help change people's minds and hearts without leaving home. How? you might ask. Easy. Become an armchair advocate.

Keep a supply of pre-stamped postcards or envelopes next to your favorite couch or chair. The pre-stamped cards can be purchased at the Post Office.

You will also need a favorite pen, some blank writing paper and address labels, if you have them.

Now, the really difficult part. Settle into you chair and read your daily newspaper or watch the TV news. If you see a positive story about the gay community or issues, pick up one of your pre-stamped cards, write a brief note to the station or appropriate advertiser who sponsored the story, voicing your support. If you see a negative story, voice you lack of support for companies and persons who engage in gay bashing, or promote stereotypes.

Write your elected officials, too, starting with one note per month, and aim for a note per week. When you drop you cards in a mail box, Voila! You have become an armchair advocate.

Sunday, December 14
2pm

First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way, Olympia

Amory Peck will lead a session on "Sharing Our Stories" as parents remember their progress in accepting gay children and their partners for holiday celebrations, and gay members recall their journey, from rejection to acceptance by their family members. Learning some "How to do its" will of course be a benefit for those still struggling for family harmony.

Sunday, January 11
2pm

First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way, Olympia

Dr. Susan Steepy, Ph.D., counselor of the new Straight Spouse Support Group will describe the hurt and the hope of those who are married or formerly married to lesbians or gay men, as they work toward understanding their spouses and establishing new lives for themselves.

Reprinted from HeartBeat, *the newsletter for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. For info call 866-0511.*

In Memoriam

Julius P. "J.P." Johnston, Jr.
Former Treasurer, Thurston County Rainbow Coalition
September 24, 1922 - November 16, 1997

It is with warm and deep affection that we convey our sympathies to Evelyn, his wife; to his family; and to his friends.
JP, you kept us solvent and sane in more than just our finances. We will miss you.

WIP Ad Rep Opening

***Works In Progress* seeks outgoing person to sell advertising for progressive community newspaper. This is a paid position, commission to be negotiated.**

For those interested, please contact Wendy at 705-2726 or write to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

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DECEMBER 1997

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(Abbreviated)

Now, therefore, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeps this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education, promote respect for these rights and freedom...

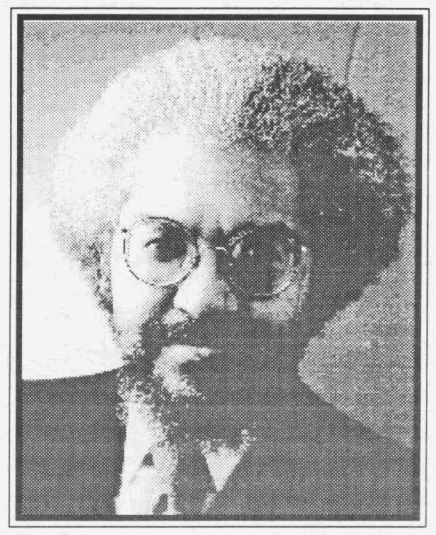
Article 1 — Right to equality.
Article 2 — Freedom from discrimination.
Article 3 — Right to life, liberty, personal security.
Article 4 — Freedom from slavery.
Article 5 — Freedom from torture, degrading treatment.
Article 6 — Right to recognition as a person before the law.
Article 7 — Right to equality before the law.
Article 8 — Right to remedy by competent tribunal.
Article 9 — Freedom from arbitrary arrest, exile.
Article 10 — Right to fair public hearing.
Article 11 — Right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.
Article 12 — Freedom from interference with privacy, family, home, correspondence.
Article 13 — Right to free movement in and out of any country.
Article 14 — Right to asylum in other countries from persecution.
Article 15 — Right to a nationality and freedom to change it.
Article 16 — Right to marriage and family.
Article 17 — Right to own property.
Article 18 — Freedom of belief and religion.
Article 19 — Freedom of opinion and information.
Article 20 — Right to peaceful assembly and association.
Article 21 — Right to participate in government, and in free elections.
Article 22 — Right to social security.
Article 23 — Right to desirable work and to join trade unions.
Article 24 — Right to rest and leisure.
Article 25 — Right to adequate living standard.
Article 26 — Right to education.
Article 27 — Right to participate in the cultural life of community.
Article 28 — Right to social order assuring human rights.
Article 29 — Community duties essential to free and full development.
Article 30 — Freedom from state or personal interference in the above rights.

December 10, 1948

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Health is a human right, not a privilege to be purchased." **Shirley Chisholm**	**1** **1851**- Abolitionist Charles Sumner of Massachusetts wins a seat on the US Senate **1967**- Montagomery: Rosa Parks sits down	**2** **1859**- John Brown hanged in Virginia. **1806**- Jefferson asks Congress for a ban on all slave importations to the United States	**3** **1995** - Clinton authorizes 700 American troops to Bosnia **1995** - Justice Dept sayls blacks outnumber whites in prison	**4** **1995** - Lyle Quasim is named the new secretary of DSHS **1996** - Olympia City Council decides to cut D.A.R.E. budget	**5** **1815**- Madison requests a national public works program **1994** - Fiona Buzzard declares herself a Democrat	**6** **1957**- Members of the AFL-CIO vote to oust from their parent union the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
7 **1661**- Massachusetts suspends act that imposes harsh penalties on Quakers and other religious nonconformists	**8** **1886**- AFL organized **1995** - Pres. Clinton formally notifies Congress of the deployment of 1,500 troops to Bosnia	**9** **1995** - Candlelight vigil held for Timothy L. Budd (homeless) **1996** - Commissioners refuse to provide shelter in cold weather	**10** **1995** - First U.S. Marines land in Bosnia **1919**- 8-week strike of coal miners ends with President Wilson's proposal	**11** **1961**- Supreme Court reverses convicion of 16 students arrested in Baton Rouge **1816**- Indiana admitted as a free state	**12** **1994** - County Commissioners agreed to apply grant for the purchase of the Fleetwood Building for homeless men and women	**13** *full moon* ● **1763**- Mob of settlers from Donegal and Paxton, Pennsylvania, attack the nonbelligerent Indians of Lancester County.
14 **1859**- To maintain its slave population, Georgia enacts law to ban granting freedom to slaves after an owner's death	**15** **1890**- Sitting Bull killed by fed. troops **1919**- U.S.: Travelers' Aid Society reports 68,000 runaway girls in past year	**16** **1987**- Michael Deaver is found guilty on 3 of 5 counts of perjury stemming from his lobbying activities	**17** **1859**- In addition, the Georgia state legislature declares that any African-American indicted for vagrancy can now be sold	**18** **1995** - In the yet to be released Pendleton Report, one-third of OPD employees want Police Chief Wurner to be removed	**19** **1995** - Pendleton Report is released. It is critical of Police Chief Wurner's administration. Wurner says he won't step down	**20** **1995** - The Olympia Police Department receives federal grant of $556,000 to install computers in patrol cars
21 **Winter Solstice** **1866**- Army: Natives north of Platte to be "hunted like wolves " **1995** - Lowry names Joe De La Cruz to Fish/Wildlife Comm.	**22** **1995** - Chief Wurner accuses City Manager of trying to force him into early retirement by offering to withhold Pendleton report	**23** **1617**-English Crown institutes a penal colony in Virginia to receive habitual criminals exiled from their native country	**24** **1865**- Six men, most Confederate Army veterans , organize secret fraternal society in Tennessee called the Ku Klux Klan	**25** **1865**- Chicago stockyards open, changes life of the mid-west **1956**- Rev Shuttlesworth's home destroyed by bomb	**26** **1848**- William and Ellen Craft escape slavery in Georgia **1956**- Birmingham blacks begin mass defiance of Jim Crow	**27** **1994**- State Patrol officer, Lan Jackstadt, charged with illegally detaining a couple on their way to an abortion clinic, is fired
28 **1963**- Moscow: 500 African students riot following death of a Ghana student by police to prevent marriage to Russian girl	**29** **1890**- Wounded Knee Massacre of Oglala **1925**- Trinity College renamed Duke University for $40 million from James B. Duke	**30** **1995** - 1st US military casualty in Bosnia **1995** - Economic Development Council says Intel is catalyst for economic dev.	**31** **1775**- Dunmore proclamation causes Washington to reverse orders and authorize enlistment of free African-Americans	**"One cannot kill an idea, but it may be delayed for a long while."** **Alice Childress**	**NOVEMBER** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	**JANUARY** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Along the Color Line

The Death of Integration



Dr. Manning Marable

Is "racial integration" really possible for the majority of black Americans? Part of the dilemma in answering this question is found in the deep reservoir of racism still found among millions of whites. Years of Reagansim, Gingrich's "Contract With America," and a reactionary Congress have convinced many whites that "too much" has already been given to us.

One measurement of white racism can be found in the vastly different responses blacks and whites give to describe the racial contours of daily life. The Gallup Organization recently released the results of a nationwide poll charting African American and white American perceptions of how blacks are treated. The poll indicated that the vast majority of whites are absolutely convinced that blacks receive at least the same treatment, and perhaps even preferential treatment, in comparison to whites. For example, only 14 percent of all whites responded that blacks were "treated less fairly than whites on the job," compared to 45% of the African Americans interviewed who replied affirmatively. Nineteen percent of whites and 46 percent of blacks interviewed agreed that blacks were "treated less fairly at stores downtown or in malls."

The racial gap extended to virtually every aspect of social intercourse. One quarter of all blacks, and 12 percent of white respondents, concurred that blacks' were treated less fairly on public transportation; in neighborhood shops, 46 percent of the blacks compared to 18 percent of whites; in restaurants, blacks' 42 percent to whites' 16 percent; and by the police, blacks' 60 percent to only 30 percent affirmative responses by whites. Significant numbers of black Americans interviewed also asserted that they had personally "experienced discrimination within the past thirty days": while shopping, 30%; dining out, 21%; at work, 21%; encountering the police, 15%; and while on public transportation, 6%.

Significant numbers of black Americans interviewed also asserted that they had personally "experienced discrimination within the past thirty days": while shopping, 30%; dining out, 21%; at work, 21%; encountering the police, 15%; and while on public transportation, 6%.

The collapse of white liberalism and the pathetic failure of moderates like Clinton to aggressively support affirmative action and other reforms, has led some African Americans to reevaluate their hostile relationship with white conservatives. Louis Farrakhan's political flirtation last spring with white Republicans at a Boca Raton, Florida retreat is of course well known. Lesser known, but perhaps more important, are the Christian Right's overtures to African Americans.

As early as 1993, Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition made overtures to black and Latino groups, releasing poll results indicating that the vast majority on nonwhites agreed with the groups' "broadly stated political agenda." For years, the Christian Coalition had vigorously pursued a policy agenda which was deeply hostile to blacks and the poor, calling for the elimination of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, affirmative action, public funding for drug rehabilitation programs, and childcare, and opposition to a national health care system. Seeking to expand its membership base of 1.8 million, Christian Coalition executive director Ralph Reed made overt gestures to black and Latino evangelical Christians. Reed publicly acknowledged that white evangelical conservatives had been "on the wrong side" of the civil rights movement."

In January 1997, Reed announced the creation of the Samaritan Project, which was designed to attract racial minorities into the predominantly white conservative movement. The Coalition promised assistance to one thousand innercity churches to "combat both material and spiritual poverty." Scholarships for innercity children in one hundred impoverished school districts was promised. The Samaritan Project followed up these initiatives with its sponsorship of a Congress of Racial Justice and Reconciliation, held on May, 1997 in Baltimore.

While the NAACP and other civil rights organizations are apparently searching for new solutions to racial problems, the Christian Right is prepared to enter the black ideological and policy leadership vacuum. We urgently need to remember that "integration" was always a "strategy" or a "tool" which could be used to achieve our goals of freedom and equality. Integration, by itself, is not a "goal." Our objectives should be: the dismantling of racism, root and branch; the democratic empowerment of the black community and its institutions; and the realization of greater social and economic justice. Because many of us have confused our strategies with our goals, no wonder the Christian Right is able to take advantage of our community.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge and regularly appears in over 325 black and progressive publications worldwide.

Not For White Males Only

Julianne Malveaux

I can't walk into an all-white-male room without my stomach lurching.

We supposedly live in a diverse and pluralistic society, one in which African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans, Native Americans and whites should fully and equally participate in the making of policy and decisions. To walk into an all-white-male room is to be reminded of the ways that scarce resources like power and decision-making have been concentrated in white male hands. It is a rejection of the world as we know it, a movement back in time to the word that existed before the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, back to the day when privilege was white and power was male--before affirmative action.

But those who proclaim the playing field is level don't feel their stomachs lurch when they walk into an all-white-male room. Instead, they feel at home. . .

When thousands of Californians joined the Rev. Jesse Jackson at the end of August in crossing the Golden Gate Bridge to protest the anti-affirmative action Proposition 209, they offered testimony to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream. Further, they challenged the notion that King might have embraced the so-called "race neutral" ballot initiative that would prevent state and local governments from providing full participation to all citizens in California's economic and political life.

The photograph of Jackson thronged by Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds made it clear that many Californians understand the street adage that "if you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything." Slightly more than half of voting Californians, caught between economic fear and the distorted notion of "preference," fell for a ballot initiative intended to turn the clock back to the day when jobs were advertised by gender and when state and local contracting went only to white men. But there were no all-white-male spaces on the bridge last week. Instead there were people who understand the richness of King's language, who understand that when he talked about his "dream," it included diversity.

King said: "America owes a debt of justice which it has only begun to pay. If it loses the will to finish or slackens in its determination, history will recall its crimes and the country that would be great will lack the most indispensable element of greatness--justice." King also noted: "When we ask Negroes to abide by the law, let us also declare that the white man does not abide by the law...He violates laws on equal employment and education." Were it not for violations in equal-employment laws, there might not be policies like affirmative action.

"There is another myth that still gets around; it is a kind of over-reliance on the bootstrap philosophy...They say the Negro must lift himself up by his own bootstraps. They never stop to realize that no other ethnic group has been a slave on American soil. The people who say this never stop to realize that the nation made the black man's color a stigma; but beyond this they never stop to realize the debt that they owe to a people who were kept in slavery 244 years."

This is King--not a reparations advocate, not a rabid liberal--speaking at his last Sunday morning sermon at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Those who quote King for speaking of character content must also quote him for reminding the nation of a debt yet unpaid.

Many of those who have embrace the notion of the unpaid debt marched across the Golden Gate Bridge with Jackson. But those who proclaim the playing field is level don't feel their stomachs lurch when they walk into an all-white-male room. Instead, they feel at home, considering themselves so superior by virtue of the color of their skin that they can lecture about test scores and educational remediation. This is not only a rejection of King's dream. It is also a 21st century tragedy.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C., based economist and nationally syndicated columnist with the King Features Syndicate.

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Up Front

Terror and Death in the Night

Skinhead Attack Leaves One Dead In Denver

Jerome Johnson

"In this city we're not going to tolerate people shooting anyone...based upon someone's color, or someone's gender, or someone's sexual orientation, or if they're wearing a blue uniform. We're not going to give up the streets of Denver!"

--Denver Mayor Wellington Webb November 1997

Oumar Dia, a 38 year old Denver man, was murdered last Tuesday night. He was shot in the head as he waited for a bus. Oumar was killed for just one reason--he was black. A nearby white woman, Jeannie Van Velkinburg, was shot and paralyzed at the same time. Her crime: trying to help Dia after he'd been shot and being a witness.

Their alleged assailant, a white 19 year old skinhead named Nathan Thill, has admitted killing Dia and shooting Van Velkinburg. I know because I heard him admit it on CNN while he was being interviewed in jail. Thill showed no remorse. He seemed proud of what he'd done, saying, "this is a war...I had to do it because of who I am, my race, to protect my heritage."

I cannot describe my rage, or my grief for the families of Dia and Van Velkinburg who tried to help him. Words don'texist to convey them. It's like having an uncontrollable fever. I want to go find the nearest racist--which wouldn't be hard--and beat the hell out of them. I want to show Dia's body to Ward Connerly, Shelby Steele, Clarence Thomas, and every other goddamn fool who thinks there's no more racism. I want them to talk to Van Velkinburg's family and explain why she was paralyzed, maybe for life, if she lives. I want them to walk the streets of Denver, New York, Atlanta or Olympia, and feel the gut-tightening watchfulness that every conscious person of color feels, because we know that today - -tomorrow --we, or our loved ones, could be dead or in a hospital at any time because of a random killer's hatred. And I want them to explain to the family of Denver police officer Bruce Jagt, who was murdered by a skinhead last week, why they're working so hard to eliminate affirmative action and yet are silent when Abner Louima is brutalized in New York, teenagers go to high school in Virginia wearing Klan robes on Halloween, and people of color terrorized nationwide because of their race. It goes on everyday, just like it has since white colonizers arrived in this hemisphere five hundred years ago and promptly began infecting, enslaving, and killing the indigenous population, while beginning the most heinous international slave trade in human history.

As long as any of us are in danger, none of us are safe. As never before, we need to fight hate and bigotry everywhere, all the time.

I honor and applaud Mayor Webb, Jefferson County Sheriff Ron Beckhorn, and Colorado governor Roy Romer for their commitment to stopping this violence. I wish Rudolph Giuliani and other officials across the country would follow their example. As I walk the streets of Olympia, I'm angry and afraid--who will be next? My Jewish friends? My lesbian/gay/transgender friends? Anyone who is the innocent target o a bigoted wacko, or cold-blooded skinhead?

As long as any of us are in danger, none of us are safe. As never before, we need to fight hate and bigotry everywhere, all the time. We cannot prevent the random violence that marks all forms of terrorism, but we can create a national climate which forces bigots into their own little enclaves (like Hayden Lake), where they can fulminate all they want--and which will mandate life in prison without possibility of parole for the Nathan Thills of this country.

In Washington D.C., Bill Lann Lee fights for Senate confirmation as Asst. Attorney General for Civil Rights.

In Denver, a city braces as law enforcement prepares to fight. "We've got a real problem here," Sheriff Beckhorn said. "It's a street war."

And in Thurston County, the bitter tinge of fear darkens the cold November nights, because we remember Bob Buchanan, and we know that skinhead terror can, and does, happen here.

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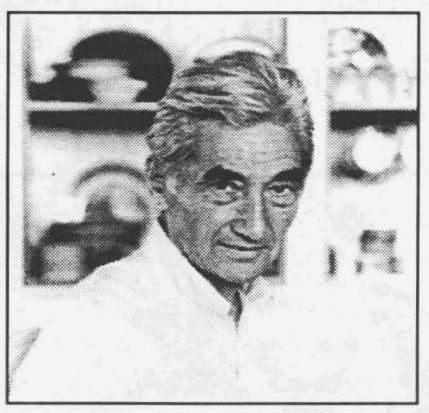
HOWARD ZINN

Author of *A People's History of the United States*

IN OLYMPIA



Wednesday, February 4

Capital High School Gym

7:00pm Music with Citizen's Band

7:30pm Talk by Howard Zinn followed by Q&A Session

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$10 General Admission
$5 (High School Students, low-income)
Ticket Outlets: Liberation Cafe, Bulldog News, Traditions Cafe, Rainy Day Records, Positively 4th St., others TBA.

Benefit for the Olympia Political Cultural Center. Call 352-7336 for info.

Handful of Truth

Teenage Theatre Troup Educates About HIV/AIDS

WIP News Service

In a world that continually labels, silences, and preaches to teenagers, eleven teens from the Olympia/Lacey area have come together to break these confining and stifling restrictions. As a response to the rise in teen HIV infection they have created a peer educational theatre company called Handful of Truth (HOT for short). The group, which has been solidly working together on a weekly basis since early September, seriously explores topics surrounding HIV/AIDS, safer sex, and prevention methods through improvisational theatre. HOT will be presenting their educational theatre piece at various high schools in the area and at the Midnight Sun in mid-December.

In October, the teen actors participated in an intensive HIV/AIDS workshop through the Thurston County Health Department. Upon completion of the workshop the teens were officially certified as peer educators in HIV/AIDS education. Eli, an actor commenting on the workshop says, "It really helped me out and now I'm in a position to help other people out even after this (Handful of Truth) is gone". The teens are taking what they learned through the workshop and are mixing it up with art through the form of theatre.

Bucky Clark, founder and artistic director for Handful of Truth, has been teaching the teens improvisational theatre skills and also participated in the weekend workshop on HIV/AIDS. "What I'm doing is using art to smash things down. The first is that teens are not valuable. The second is that no one should talk to teens and take them seriously. I'm smashing those down by having teens talk to teens. The end result is that everyone is being taken seriously." There are few places in Olympia where teens have the opportunity to express their ideas, thoughts, visions, and knowledge of the world around them in a non-judgemental atmosphere. Clark says, "I want to hold back the rest of society and say [to teens]: 'It's okay to be intelligent, it's okay to address issues, it's okay to talk to your peers like you care about them. I'm holding back the walls under the guise that I will teach you theatre.'"

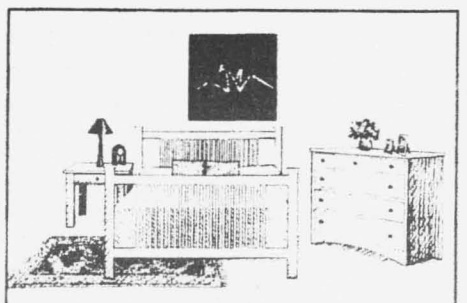
HOT will be performing at the Midnight Sun in downtown Olympia on December 19 & 20 at 8pm. Teens are encouraged to attend for free.

Molly, an actor with HOT states, "As teenagers, we know AIDS is not addressed. Our friends don't talk about it and it doesn't come up in school. I think this is a way which people will actually listen because theatre can provide that for them. I'm really happy to be doing this because it's needed right now."

By responding to the rising cases of HIV and AIDS, the teens of Handful of Truth are educating each other is a serious and creative fashion. HOT seeks to open up lines of communication between peers and avoid sterile unrealistic 'answers' that are often forced upon them by adults.

Mariah, another actor with HOT says, "Sex is a serious issue. If you are going to deal with it, you need to deal with it right. I want to help educate you about it."

Handful of Truth is an exciting and necessary addition to the Olympia community. Teen voices are important and integral to every community. HOT will be performing at the Midnight Sun in downtown Olympia on December 19 & 20 at 8pm. Teens are encouraged to attend for free. Look for flyers. For more information please call Bucky at 786-5581 x6966.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The Olympian Caught Representing The Businessman's Agenda

by Pat Tassoni

The Olympian took the liberty of filling some space in their paper by printing this editorial about the on-going debate over whether or not Olympia is going to continue to pass laws against the poor at the request of certain downtown business owners. The ordinance is neither a done deal nor is it proven to be legally impervious. The next meeting on it is Tuesday, Jan. 6th 7pm at City Hall.

Yes, this year, the Council did reject the ordinance. *They got that right at least.* BUT last year the council deferred it to a mediation group. *So, in a sense, it has been rejected twice.* On the unreported positive side: accepted proposals by the council were putting in more benches and doing an education campaign.

Customers don't have a difficult time getting in and out of shops -- there are already laws against blocking entrances AND EVEN a law against blocking the sidewalk. So what's the point? The businesses think that others who see those hanging out on the sidewalk makes downtown unattractive *as if mean and spiteful businesses makes it attractive*. An ordinance prohibiting negative thinking of downtown would be more appropriate and just as effective!

This is all based on the nebulous idea that businesses knows what's best for society. Because there is a difference between private property (the malls) and public space, downtown customers must face something that doesn't exist at the malls: poverty. Business solution to poverty is like the malls' solution which is to push it out of sight and kick the impoverished out.

A study by city officials found that Sidewalk Sitters weren't the problem, it was panhandlers. An ordinance prohibiting the selling of anything by anyone would be just as effective!

If this ordinance would solve the larger problems of poverty and societal ills then I would be all for it. Unfortunately it is just the next step in a series of local ordinances designed to push out youth and the poor and to sani-

This is *the Olympian* lobbying the council again on behalf of businesses because the council doesn't seem to be listening to them on this issue.

This is *the Olympian* reassuring the business community that they *are* on their side. After all, the poor and youth don't read, subscribe or advertise.

If *the Olympian* did their homework they would find that the education campaign hasn't started and that the new benches haven't been put in yet either. Those were to come first. The things I find cluttering the sidewalk much more than people are the newspaper boxes and other inanimate objects that businesses place there. There is an ordinance against businesses cluttering up the sidewalk (unenforced). Businesses would be warned against blocking the sidewalk whereas actual people would face a monetary fine. *The logic of that is the real obstacle course!*

More lobbying but this time with false assurances.

A targeted and safe thought. And a mindless one at that.

The Olympian

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 1997 **A9**

EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR:
MIKE OAKLAND / 754-5464

ON OTHER MATTERS

Court upholds Seattle's law

Earlier this year, a divided Olympia City Council rejected an ordinance that would forbid people from sitting on downtown sidewalks.

The issue was brought to the council from downtown merchants who said customers were having a difficult time getting in and out of their businesses.

During our interviews with Olympia City Council candidates last month, many said they do not believe the issue is dead.

Neither do we.

Despite an "education" campaign, there are still plenty of people obstructing the regular flow of pedestrian traffic. Dodging sidewalk-sitters and dogs on leashes can be a real obstacle course.

The state Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of Seattle's ordinance that prohibits sitting on commercial district sidewalks during business hours.

In 1996, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Seattle's law does not violate any individual's constitutional right.

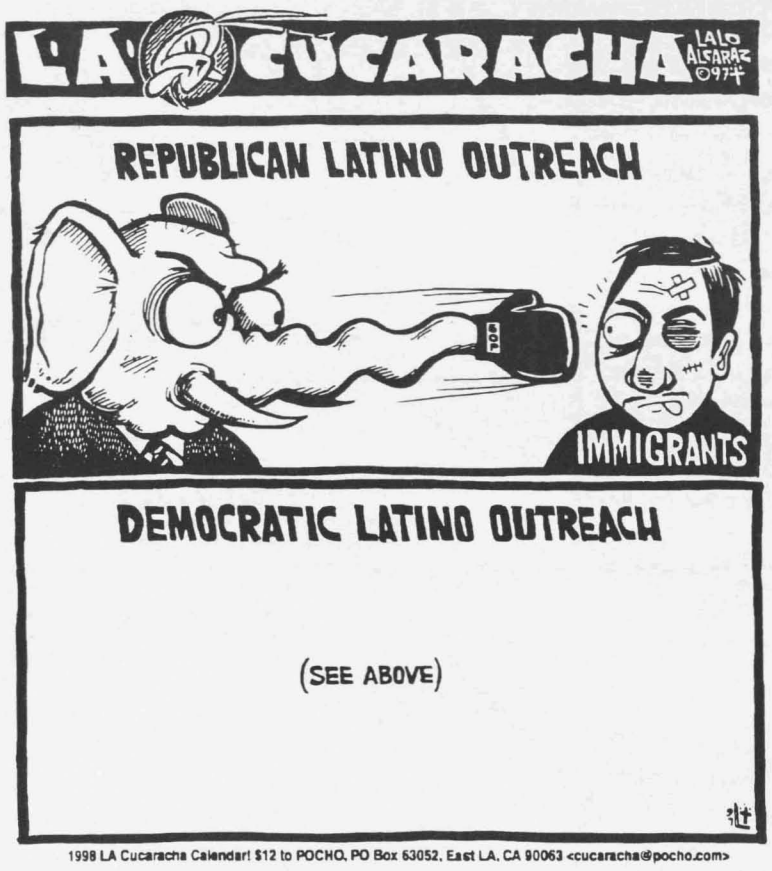
Those two rulings show that a constitutional ordinance can be drafted if city officials are so inclined.

Just a thought.

Not true. The State Supreme Court just upheld that the law did not violate the constitutional rights of free speech of those only named in the suit who were ticketed in Seattle because they: "were not involved in expressive activity when they were cited." One case, one opinion. It took years and countless city tax dollars to pursue.

Each citation represents the possibility of another case. The summation from the Court of Appeals further states that they: "do not decide whether, on different facts involving a protected activity or speech, SMC15.48.040 would be a valid time, place, manner restriction. We also do not decide whether homeless residents could establish the requisite disparate impact to invoke the protection of the Privileges and Immunities Clause because these appellants have not done so." In addition to these arguments that have yet to be tried, numerous claims involving the disabled, both under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the federal and state constitution, remain litigable.

As someone who has been involved in the opposition to a No Sitting On The Sidewalk Ordinance in Olympia, I can assure everyone that legal challenges remain an option for us. And furthermore, I may even be willing to get a second job to fund the costs of bringing a suit against the City of Olympia.



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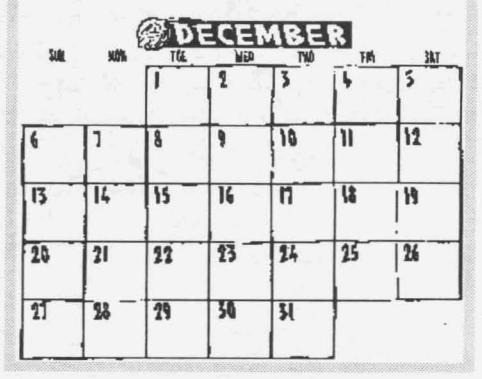

The 1998 L.A. Cucaracha Calendar has 12 editorial cartoons from the prize winning L.A. Cucaracha and also features some background information behind the issues inspiring the widely read editorial strip, plus dates important to Raza.

The calendario is glossy black and white and sold out last year, so hurry. L.A. Cucaracha is seen in the LA Weekly, HISPANIC Magazine, El Andar, La Prensa San Diego, La Prensa Austin and the Tucson Comic News.

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The Funeral I Won't Go To: Raising the Spirit of Affirmative Ac

by Wendy C. Ortiz

I ever rarely read Mother Jones, and have probably bought one issue in my life, but I picked up the latest copy because it was free (recycled). What follows is a lambasting of the editor's note entitled "The Race Course," and some thoughts on "progressive" thinkers and the interesting ways that some begin to sound exactly like their conservative counterparts.

Is it any wonder that most conscious (and I mean, living and breathing only) Americans would "believe that racism is beyond the president's control"? Why would the (white) president suddenly have control of an issue that practically permeates the air we breathe? This is an issue that, I would hope, people see as something they personally must attend to, not something to put in the hands of a man who is living in a big white mansion.

Conversing about race in dishonest ways is commonplace across the board...liberals and progressives are just as guilty of it as anyone else. As Klein's article goes on, it becomes more apparent that this is true. Which Americans are in public, "praising the benefits of a diverse and multicultural society"? I was under the impression that most Americans viewed a multicultural society as a subject for debate, not something that was praised. I would venture to point out that the ruling majority of white men, whether in government or institutions of learning, frequently bemoan the attempts made to foster equality in what is (and has been) a diverse and multicultural society. In its most potent forms, it's called anti-multiculturalism, PC bashing, racism, sexism, and homophobia, among other things.

Using the language of conservatives to make his point, Klein resorts to pointing fingers at the mob "ethnic and racial tribes"--a more common term for this in the right-wing's vocab is "balkanization."

Foes of affirmative action are fond of using race-based arguments to increase the divisions that were already in place way before affirmative action. Perhaps this is Klein's most obvious crime: that he would use the rhetoric of the right when speaking to a liberal and progressive audience. To single out affirmative action as a policy worthy of abolishment is an easy scapegoat when it comes to matters of race in this country. It's the same method that conservatives currently use in every city and state in order to garner support for what is essentially a backlash on civil rights.

Klein concedes that affirmative action is not the cause of "America's fundamental racial problems"--but then succinctly points out what those causes are. Here, I can half agree, but would urge people to see beyond the symptoms of an unequal society, and look directly at the way this country has operated as a whole throughout its entire lifetime: a serious addiction to capitalism breeds institutions such as slavery; segregation is another outcome that survives today. In the same boat, we have anti-immigration tempers flaring, lack of support for worker's rights, and other such problems. Slavery today is the sweatshop; segregation is the tracking in schools, and the environment we will inevitably return to if affirmative action policies are not upheld. Klein posits that it is affirmative action that has "driven away many natural allies"--perhaps this is due to the fact that these so-called allies are fearing, too, for their own jobs and find that conservative rhetoric that speaks of "quotas" and "reverse discrimination" are far easier to digest than confronting their own racism and acting to support a truly equal opportunity society. Asking progressives to find alternatives is sort of funny, in a way; haven't we all along been searching for methods of racial healing, or at least examining our own views on racism? If you identify as a progressive and this sounds like a foreign concept to you, please do your homework and get back to me soon, okay?

For Klein to make the dramatic statement of practically inviting the defeat of affirmative action is absolutely disgusting. Klein goes on to use the race-based statistics. Statistic like these deflect attention the fact that white women are more common beneficiaries of affirmative action than the blacks. Conservatives manipulate much of the debate so that one group, or people of color as a whole, become scapegoats, and Klein uses this tactic effectively in this paragraph. I, for one, am not comforted by the idea that women and people of color will be effectively kept out of learning institutions and jobs. And it's certain that veterans and disabled people will be the next victims.

"Battles over turf and money" is an extremely condescending way of describing the process by which Americans are forced to work to make money to feed themselves and their families (with any money left over for things like rent--Klein's idea of turf, perhaps?). Or maybe "turf" refers to the college campuses teaming with people who, we are told by conservatives, don't deserve to be there, and the jobs that "unqualified" people (women, people of color) need in order to survive in this country. This phrase denotes that there's enough turf and money to go around. When a dominating power structure increasingly diminishes access to the pie, and then the seats at the table, you had better believe there will be some battles over turf and money.

As for "government incentives to ease racial tensions"--where are those? Affirmative action has long been a good faith policy, in some cases, never legally binding. I would like to propose here that affirmative action should not die, it should be further implemented, further supported, and put into practice in a way it has never been.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Race Course

WHEN PRESIDENT CLINTON WENT TO SAN DIEGO EARLY THIS summer and announced a "great and unprecedented conversation about race," it was no secret that he hoped to address historians as much as the graduating college seniors seated before him. For months, Clinton had searched for a defining crusade to mark his presidency. He settled on America's most agonizing and enduring dilemma, and it was a good choice. Although many Americans have stopped rooting for this president, most of us would like him to succeed on this issue. But we're deeply skeptical. A survey taken immediately following Clinton's speech showed that almost 60 percent of Americans believe racial problems are beyond the president's control.

Why the pessimism? One trouble is that, in some sense, we converse about race enough already. But we converse dishonestly, or at least disingenuously. There is a chasm between our public and private discussions of race, between the way we talk about other people when we are in classrooms and how we talk about them in our living rooms. In public, most Americans praise the benefits of a diverse and multicultural society. But when the doors are closed, the same Americans retreat into their own ethnic and racial tribes and voice deeper and darker emotions: resentment and guilt, rage and fear.

Though American society is more diverse than ever before, a charged division persists: the line between blacks and whites. Both blacks and whites want racial comity and both believe racial discrimination still exists in America. But when the discussion turns to specific causes and solutions, the consensus fractures. Here's one reason: affirmative action.

Of course, affirmative action didn't cause America's fundamental racial problems—slavery and segregation did. But affirmative action has eroded liberals' moral credibility as reformers and driven away many natural allies. So progressives need to reassess their commitment to affirmative action and find better alternatives that can re-establish racial healing as a national priority.

It seems safe—if not completely comforting—to say that affirmative action's political defeat is imminent. Blacks and whites have irreconcilable differences on this issue. Only 17 percent of whites believe blacks and other minorities should receive preferences in admissions to college. A majority of blacks think the opposite. According to the most recent Gallup poll, almost 60 percent of African-Americans believe the government should make every effort to improve conditions of blacks and other minorities. Only 34 percent of white Americans agree.

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EDITOR'S

became a virtual mantra for liberals, even though it contradicted a widely held American belief that no racial or ethnic group deserved a mandated advantage in the marketplace, and even though the central beneficiaries—middle-class blacks—commanded a limited political base.

When the sustainability of American growth came into question, any racial unity that the left had built fractured into battles over turf and money. One casualty is the withering of affirmative action. Another is the very notion that America can become an integrated, harmonious whole. Even the NAACP reconsidered its commitment to integration. Despite the recent prosperity that is fattening federal coffers, most Americans no longer believe that government incentives to ease racial tensions will succeed.

This alarming loss of faith is the reason why *Mother Jones* is devoting so much of this issue to rethinking race. The right, by successfully dismantling affirmative action, has seized the initiative on race in America. But progressives can recover it. First we need to admit that affirmative action has failed as a long-term political strategy. In its

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MOTHER JONES

Like welfare reform, the dissolution of affirmative action without the proposition of real alternatives could prove shamefully destructive. Even during its dismantling, affirmative action has allowed us to talk about race euphemistically: Both its supporters and detractors could appeal to principle, each claiming to be the champions of equality. This let everyone off the hook. To date, we have avoided the emotional rawness that lies below the surface of racial civility.

Beneath their professed tolerance, many white Americans suspect that the black community carries a defective pathology that no amount of government programs or "conversation" can cure. Whites wonder why blacks continue to underachieve in comparison to other ethnic and immigrant groups, particularly Asian-Americans. And whites fear, in times of high tension, that blacks will act as a racially united and irrational mob. The first O.J. Simpson verdict horrified so many whites because it seemed to flout the mores of law and reason, in favor of some controlling racial solidarity. That terrified whites, many of whom see themselves as potential victims of that mob.

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Blacks, on the other hand, perceive white America as a persistent, quiet mob. When an all-white jury in a white enclave, Simi Valley, California, acquitted Rodney King's assailants in 1992, many blacks (and not only those in the hoods of South Central Los Angeles) saw the triumph of a self-protecting tribe that ignores documented brutality. Many blacks sympathize with claims that the CIA introduced crack cocaine into inner cities, or with the hateful cant of Louis Farrakhan, because they believe that white America harbors a primal desire to close ranks in order to preserve its power.

Certainly the desire to exploit "the other" is an old American tradition. Economic conservatives have long treated America's ethnic groups as laborers who could be bought for cheap and then integrated when an even more alien labor force was allowed in. Although American liberals derided this cold calculation, they also relied heavily upon a certain economic logic. Their greatest victories in the period following the New Deal and ending with the Vietnam War came about largely because, for three decades, the bounties of the American economy seemed limitless. The left did not anticipate that America's taste for serious social reform would contract when resources did. Instead, much of the left embraced a politics of racial consumerism. It assumed that in an infinitely prosperous America, every group and subgroup was entitled to its own share of the riches. Support for affirmative action

'S NOTE

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rary American conservatism's stated ideal is to redress the country's moral failings. Americans in the next century could find, as did 19th-century abolitionists and 20th-century civil rights leaders, that race problems cannot be solved solely through economics. Racial inequity is a moral, emotional, and spiritual problem shared by blacks and whites. On a fundamental level, inequality of opportunity should signify immorality—particularly to religious fundamentalists. All honest conservatives could be helped to see the resolution of America's racial problems as the test of their faith.

For progressives, the end of affirmative action presents a critical moment. The progressive philosophy is essentially optimistic: A democratic society's enduring attribute should be its capacity for self-improvement. The death of affirmative action need not be a dispiriting event. Our history teaches that the nation's greatest periods of renewal came out of crisis. Truly visionary Americans will not wait for the president's conversation on race. They will seize the moment for themselves now. —*Jeffrey Klein*

If Klein is only posing the idea that the dissolution of welfare reform "could" prove "shamefully destructive" without proposed alternatives, he must be sleeping. I don't think this is a possibility, it's a reality. A recent survey shows that there aren't enough jobs available for the welfare recipients that are the "beneficiaries" of this "reform." Similarly, repealing affirmative action will have destructive repercussions that will be felt by everyone--and when I say everyone, I need to make clear that city-wide rebellions DO affect everyone.

Same race-based tactics described in my preceding paragraphs. Klein puts the suspicions and fears of whites into a nutshell, and uses the word "victim," which effectively may be tied back to whites as the perceived victims of reverse discrimination.

Klein now puts the suspicions and fears (that are grounded in reality and fact, as the history of this country will show) of blacks into a nutshell. He uses the word "tribe" as he did in paragraph two, when he accused ethnic and racial tribes of retreating into their own. This supposes that there is a place of racial harmony already existing that these "tribes" should go to, so that the retreat will be more like a reunion. Yeah, right. And to describe white America as a "quiet mob" is utterly ridiculous to my ears; KKK ring a bell? There is nothing quiet about hate groups and individuals who assert their agendas on the people of color in this country on a daily basis. I have never had a day of quiet in my life.

The widely held "American belief" statement in this paragraph obscures the only real group that prospered through its own exclusive/exploiting/discriminatory/racist advantage--that of white males in this country. Klein's assertion that middle class blacks are the central beneficiaries of affirmative action is completely false. It's an assertion that even some conservatives would decline to make because all the statistics point to something extraordinarily opposite: that white women and white males (veterans, disabled) are the central beneficiaries of affirmative action in this country.

Thanks, Mother Jones, for your attention to race in this single issue of your magazine. Thank you for the article later in the same issue called "Getting in Touch With My Inner Racist" (a trite, pseudo-confessional in which the author wonders how his little son could be racist at such a tender age--and then describes the small circle of blacks his family is familiar with, one being his housekeeper; comes complete with a full page illustration of scary black people).

Thank you, Jeffrey Klein, for explaining to his progressive audience that we must admit affirmative action's defeat--and then describing "superior public education" as the alternative (ha ha, most places can't even pass a school levy!).

"Individual responsibility" is the code word for "do it yourself, without government help, like we did" ("we" being white). So, let's try for the "transracial coalition," but remember, everyone, you're on your own--well, except us who benefit from things like nepotism, the old boys network, unearned wealth, white collar crime, etc.

As for pandering to the religious fundamentalist: this is a joke. If this were even half believable or effective, wouldn't we be asking several similar questions of the religious fundamentalist? Like, isn't it immoral to negate the existence and/or discriminate against gays and lesbians? Isn't it immoral to put your personal needs before the needs of an exploited worker that makes your clothes in a foreign country? If this tactic worked, perhaps this discussion wouldn't be happening.

I will not be a by-stander as Jeffrey Klein throws the first clump of dirt on the grave he made for affirmative action.

The distortions and manipulations of affirmative action policy on the part of conservatives -- and now so-called liberals and progressives -- are running rampant. Anti-affirmative action is anti-civil rights. Perhaps it's true that, being a visionary American (which I would have never christened myself), I will not wait for Clinton's "conversation on race," because this conversation will more than likely not include me. The pseudo-uplifting mantra of "seize the moment" is a pointless conclusion. "Renewal out of crisis" is an important concept, and one I would like to introduce to Jeffrey Klein, who may have never benefited from affirmative action, or perhaps never wanted to admit to benefiting from it. Mr. Klein, the crisis is now.

NO!200 Coalition: 360/956-0132
E-mail: WashNo200@aol.com
Decline to Sign Organizing Training: Sat., December 6th. Call for time and place.
"The Attack on Affirmative Action in Washington State: A Panel Discussion" will be aired on TCTV throughout the month of December. Check your local TV listings for times.

APEC At A Glance

Jonathan Oppenheim

APEC is a grouping of 18 "economies" which aims to impose a "free trade" zone in the Asia-Pacific region. Despite the rhetoric, there is nothing free about "free trade." It is the forced changing of rules to benefit corporations at the expense of people, governments and the environment. As Joan Spero, the US Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs said, "APEC has a customer. APEC is not for governments, it is for business. Through APEC we aim to get government out of the way, opening the way for business to do business."

APEC is a colonialist tool, wielded by wealthy nations to exploit the environment and cheap labor of less prosperous nations.

APEC and the Gutting of our Social Safety Net

In the global market, cuts to education, employment insurance, health care and welfare, are made under the pretext of luring investment. Any talk of raising taxes is quashed by corporations threatening to leave for a "better" business environment. Despite soaring profits, corporate contributions to tax revenues have gone from 50% in the 60's, to less than 8% today. It is only a matter of time before Canada adopts the impoverished American model - no safety net, just cold concrete.

APEC erodes Human Rights

Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia Pacific) articulates our government's position, asserting that "discussion of human rights and social development might impede progress on economic and trade issues." When APEC comes to town, we will be rolling out the red carpet for mass murderers such as General Suharto of Indonesia and Jiang Zemin of China. Suharto is responsible (among other things) for the invasion of East Timor and the subsequent genocide that continues to this day. Jiang Zemin was complicit in the Tiananmen square massacre, referring to it as "much ado about nothing," and was responsible for the severe crackdown that ensued. Canada refuses to take a stand against human rights abuses, despite pleas from dissidents in both countries. To save face, our government pursues a policy they call "constructive engagement." In this way they give the appearance of being concerned about human rights when all they are really concerned about is business. For Canada, constructive engagement has meant abstaining from, or voting against, every UN resolution condemning Indonesia's invasion of East Timor. We continue to sell weapon parts to the Indonesian military. "Constructive engagement" ultimately means a destructive retreat from life or death issues. In addition to supporting dissidents overseas, we should examine our own backyard. Canada and the US are old pros when it comes to the mistreatment of indigenous peoples.

APEC causes Environmental Destruction

"Free trade" agreements like APEC lower international environmental standards by making it easier for corporations to move between countries. In order to compete, countries are forced to weaken their environmental regulations to the lowest common denominator. Canadian mining companies — some of the worst global polluters in the world — have been quick to exploit trade agreements like APEC by moving to countries where they may conduct their operations unhampered by environmental protection. "Free trade" has already given tremendous power to corporations, allowing them to influence government policy. Ethyl Corp., an American company, is currently suing Canada for banning the fuel additive and pollutant MMT. Environmental regulations can be considered unfair competition under NAFTA.

APEC is Undemocratic

Although APEC has been around since 1989, you've probably only heard about it now that it's coming to Vancouver. This is no surprise as APEC operates through closed meetings of bureaucrats, politicians, big business representatives and academics. The only institutional presence in APEC, outside of government, is the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) which is made up of CEOs. The people who are most affected by APEC's policies have no input in APEC discussions and decision-making. APEC does not operate in isolation. Fundamental decisions about our lives are routinely made by bureaucrats and economists working through institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank. According to Renato Rugiero, Director General of the WTO, "We are writing the constitution of a single global economy." Treaties such as the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), dubbed "a bill of rights for investors," are being drafted in secret. There is no public debate about these issues which will radically alter the way we live.

APEC Fosters a Society of Consumption

APEC and similar trade agreements are not just about merchandise, they are about making our very existence into a commodity. We don't talk about people and the environment we talk about "human and natural resources." In the APEC world vision, all aspects of our lives are reconceived in terms of profitability. Consider APEC's view on education: a recent APEC concept paper on the subject directly attacks learning and the idea that a critical education can improve our lives: "Education means preparing workers for business." In the APEC world vision, the north is one big shopping mall and the south is one big factory. Culture becomes Disneyified and our lives become merely life-styles; we become the children of Coca-Cola.

APEC MYTHS

"APEC is inevitable (so Canada should try to make the best of it)." 80% of the world's population has no access to modern communication technology. The Asia-Pacific is being forced open by business interests, not by the internet. Although the world is getting smaller for a select few, the form globalization takes is a matter for public debate, not inevitability. We can decide what kind of world we want to live in. Since the whole structure of APEC is flawed from the outset, efforts to make any positive changes to the agreement are futile. It should not be surprising that Canadian participation, thus far, has only served to further APEC's corporate agenda. Canadian, US, and Australian business interests are actively pushing other APEC nations to liberalize their economies faster than these countries would like. Our government has demonstrated that it has no will to take on crucial social issues within APEC. Canada even outdoes America when it comes to overlooking human rights abuses within countries such as China. Even if APEC decided to take a proactive stance on these important questions, do we really want business to be involved in making decisions about such issues as environmental protection?

"APEC will Help Small Businesses Prosper"

Small businesses will actually be weakened under APEC. Without access to cheap labor, cheap resources and the large government subsidies that are handed out daily to big corporations, small businesses simply cannot compete. We are entering an era of monopoly capitalism where a few mega- corporations set the rules and can afford to play the game. Every day, we see more and more mergers and buy-outs. Now, of the biggest 100 economies, 51 are corporations and only 49 are countries. 500 transnationals control 70% of international trade.

"APEC Provides a Great Opportunity for Dialogue and Cultural Exchange"

While APEC leaders and their supporters often drag out the corpse of "cultural exchange" to defend their corporate agenda, it has been made clear from the outset that APEC is explicitly about business. According to a Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs document entitled An Open Door for Canadian Business, "APEC has been business driven from the start, a feature that sets it apart from many other regional trade bodies." APEC is not an opportunity for cultural exchange. Such opportunities have always existed and will continue to exist without APEC. Neither is APEC an informal chit-chat. Although APEC agreements are often described as non-binding, this assumes that everyone comes to the table on equal footing. However, there are huge vested interests and imbalances of power at play. While the rules may remain somewhat flexible for the US and Japan, weaker nations will be forced into compromising positions. In essence APEC is an attempt by the powerful developed nations to pry open the weaker economies in the Asia Pacific region. APEC is a colonialist tool, wielded by wealthy nations to exploit the environment and cheap labor of less prosperous nations.

"APEC will Result in Increased Prosperity for Everyone"

APEC means prosperity for investors and the business elite. This will be accomplished at the expense of the rest of us. Since the Canada - US free trade agreement, corporations have been experiencing record profits, yet the income of the poorest fifth of Canadians has dropped 20%. APEC will continue this erosion of wages and working conditions. Labor will be forced to make concessions in order to compete with workers in countries such as Indonesia, where trying to organize a union can get you killed. APEC encourages child labor, and sweat shop working conditions. It is these sub-human labor practices which lure investment from companies like Nike. While the world is being made borderless for capital and corporations, human beings remain trapped in poverty. This is not about prosperity, this is about more poverty for more people.

"There are No Alternatives"

No is an alternative. There are plenty of international organizations and conferences aimed at making the world a better place to do business. Making the world a better place, however, is left to underfunded NGO's and a few toothless UN bureaucracies. If the will exists to reduce tariffs and government budgets, then why shouldn't the will exist to reduce poverty and the size of the military? If we can negotiate "Free Trade" then we can also negotiate the dismantling of corporate rule. There are models for Fair Trade. There are always alternatives.

Works In Progress seeks contributors

Works In Progress encourages all persons, who would like to voice opinions or bring attention to issues of concern, to send written text (if on disk, IBM text preferred), recorded voice text, photographs, poetry, and/or art work to:

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Resumes or journalism writing skills are not required. It is recommended that an article be written in the contributor's own voice from her/his perspective. *Works In Progress* challenges the validity of the widely accepted concept of "unbiased journalism."

Congress Won't Buy Rehashed NAFTA Promises

Mike Dolan, Field Director, Global Trade Watch, Public Citizen

Public Citizen released a report last week documenting the outcomes of the special deals made in 1993 to push NAFTA passage. The October report, "Deals for NAFTA Votes: Trick, No Treat" focused on deals made to protect particular industries. The report documented that numerous broad-ranging industry and sectoral deals (such as Florida agriculture, durum wheat), as well as narrower deals with individual Members (a highway project, extradition of rapist) were not kept. Several promises that were "kept" in letter were broken in spirit, so underlying concerns remained unaddressed (textiles, wine.)

As this new report documents, many of the policy-related promises "announced" today where never satisfied when first made in 1993. Thus, it appears the Clinton Administration is trying to recycle them to sell again in their current scramble for fast track votes. In this new report, we focus on failed deals designed to improve the NAFTA package:

Promise 1:

The "Domestic Window" Adjustment Program for Harmed Communities

Broken: Promised Funding of $150 Million Fizzles into $22.5 Million Broken: Program Not Staffed or Launched Until Third Year of NAFTA

Promise 2.

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Harmed Workers

Broken: Training Programs and Requirements Fail Workers

Broken: No Jobs Created for "Retrained" Workers

Broken: Many Harmed Workers Cannot Qualify for Any Assistance

Broken: Workers Cut Off When Program Runs Out of Money

Broken: Less Than 2% Actually Receive NAFTA-TAA Benefits

Broken: Most Workers Not Aware of Program Because No Mandatory Notice

Promise 3.

Border Environmental Clean Up: North American Development Bank and the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission

Broken: Only One Project Funded in Four Years

Broken: Few Projects Approved for Possible, Eventual Funding

Broken: Loan Criteria Cut Out Poorest Communities Entirely Broken: Border Environmental and Health Infrastructure, Quality Declines

Promise 4.

Core NAFTA Environmental Provisions Will Safeguard Domestic Laws, Stop Competitive Deregulation

Broken: Already 2 Major NAFTA Challenges of National Environmental Laws

Broken: Chemical's Residue Tolerances Not Canceled After NAFTA Claim

Broken: Mexico, Canada Use Environmental Deregulation to Attract Investment

Promise 5.

Guarantees to Protect and Promote Labor Rights in Mexico

Broken: Promised Executive Order on Labor Rights Never Issued

Broken: Mexican Wages Have Not Kept Up With Productivity Gains

Broken: Mexican Labor Conditions Have Deteriorated

Promise 6.

Labor Side Agreement to Ensure Enforcement of Domestic Labor Laws

Broken: Cornell Study Shows NAFTA Used to Undermine U.S. Unions

Broken: No Cases Make It Through Labor Side Panel

Broken: Mexican Labor Rights Conditions Deteriorate

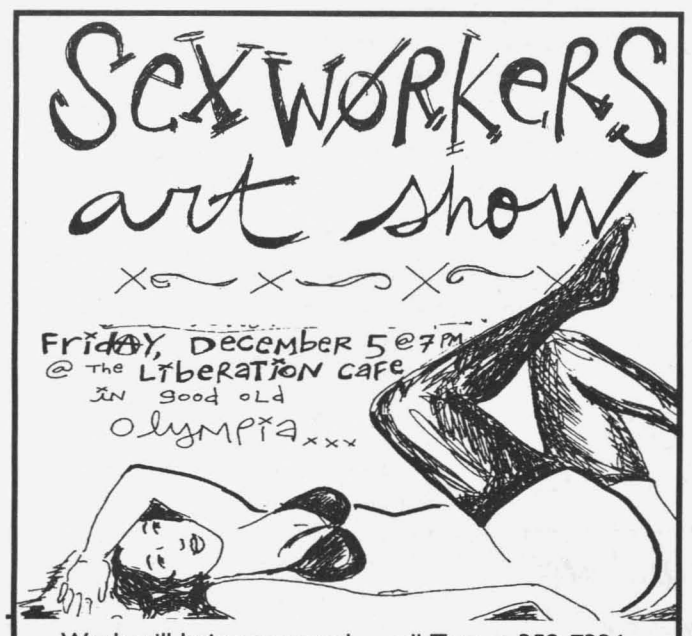
Promise 7.

NAFTA Environmental Side Agreement to Ensure Enforcement and Sunshine on Environment

Broken: Commission Refuses to Hear Cases Requesting Enforcement of Laws

Broken: Single Major NAFTA Environmental Impact Study Stalled Indefinitely

Following the historic self destruction of Fast Track on the U.S. floor in early November, Olympia Stop Fast Track has metamorphosed into Olympia MAI-Not! A reference to the far ranging Multilateral Agreement on Investment that Congress is likely to vote on next Spring. Olympia MAI-Not! seeks to raise awareness and channel people's creative energy into both practical and innovative forms of education and resistance. Look for a public informational event to be held in downtown Olympia in early January. Please call 754-9585 for more information.



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American Public, Congress Reject NAFTA- GATT Model of Economic Globalization

Fast Track Defeat Signals Demand for New Trade Policy

by Lori Wallach, Director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, on the Defeat of "Fast Track"

Today marks a historical shift in U.S. trade policy: fast track was a referendum on the NAFTA-GATT model of economic globalization and it was rejected.

Congress stood firm through a barrage of presidential pressure and every imaginable giveaway deal to demand a new U.S. approach to trade and globalization.

The rejection of fast track means we can now begin the forward-looking discussion of creating a policy that goes beyond the narrow interests of the largest corporations to promote environmental protection, safe food, and fair wages.

This vote is a massive victory for the American public with Congress standing up to a misguided President and self-interested big businesses to represent the concerns of their constituents. Sore losers are trying to spin this enormous political shift as based only on the power of the labor movement. If labor contributions were the only factor, NAFTA would have been defeated in 1993. This victory demonstrates a sea change in U.S. politics with trade and globalization as hot political issues on which voters nationwide carefully follow their elected representatives.

In addition to the American people and the environment, a winner today was American democracy. Despite the incredible pressure of the President and the cabinet, despite the offers of outrageous pork barrel deals, despite the intense lobbying by most of the Fortune 500, Congress was able to represent the interests of their constituents.

Like the American people, Congress has soured on the experience of trade deals like NAFTA. Congress chose to learn from the mistakes of the past and move forward towards a trade policy which includes the interests of American workers and the environment.

US & Iraq: Cleaning Up Our Own Backyard

Billboard illustrating how desensitized Americans are to war as it it used as a marketing tool to advertise the safety of your dollar.
photo by Dave Campbell

Ron Jacobs

Let me state that I am not a fan of Saddam Hussein.

That said, let me further state that the continuing efforts by the United States (under the facade of the United Nations) to intimidate his government are despicable. Under the guise of truce enforcement, the United States is starving Iraqi children and denying ill citizens of that country appropriate medical aid. If there are still "weapons of mass destruction" hidden somewhere in Iraq after more than six years of intensive searches by more than 150 UN arms inspectors, it is unlikely they can be unearthed very quickly and less likely that they will be used given Iraq's weakened military status. Indeed, it is much more likely that the United States military in the region will unleash some of its "weapons of mass destruction" first and in a deadlier fashion.

The Congress, White House and State Department continue to call for firm and aggressive action against the government of Saddam Hussein, saying that his actions "threaten regional stability". At the same time, the US does absolutely nothing to rein in Bibi Netanyahu of Israel whose actions not only threaten that stability, but may destroy any hope for lasting peace. The hypocrisy is obvious. It's not that Iraq's actions threaten the stability of the region in the eyes of the people who live there. It's that they threaten the stability of the corporate investments that the energy companies and the banks that own them have in the region.

As is so often repeated (with an odd sense of pride, I might add), the US is the most powerful nation in the world. Understood in this claim is that it will do anything to remain in that position. Including starting a war, as we saw most recently in 1990. Of course, given the American people's aversion to war, the policymakers would prefer to keep things in their favor through other means. This is why they are using the UN to enforce embargoes and travel bans against the people of Iraq.

At the same time, a move is underway to open up trade between the Arab states and Israel -- something that will benefit the US financially and strategically should it occur. After all, trading partners are less likely to move any differences they might have onto the battlefield without trying every other possible step first. One example of this is the wrestling going on over the wording of a resolution against Iraq at the UN Security Council as I write this. Both France and Russia are opposed to the stronger language the US desires because they have investments in Iraq. Although both resent US attempts to establish hegemony, the governments of those countries know that it's better to split up the world without acrimony, since world wars are the result of imperial rivalries not resolved peaceably.

If the US really wants to get rid of weapons of mass destruction, why doesn't it start with its own arsenal? And sign the treaty banning land mines?

Iraq is right in asking that the United States remove its personnel from the arms inspection teams. After all, not more than a year ago the Iraqi military uncovered a CIA plot to kill Saddam. Add to this the hypocrisy of opposing Iraqi attacks on the Kurds while tacitly supporting Turkish military attacks on the same people. There is a reason they don't trust the US. Over and over again they have been lied to. In the minds of the Iraqi government it is apparent that the US will not be satisfied until a regime is in Baghdad whose primary purpose is to do bidding of American corporate interests in the region. Like I said earlier, it's not that I support Saddam Hussein, it's that I find the consistent duplicity of the US even more reprehensible than his recent actions. If the US really wants to get rid of weapons of mass destruction, why doesn't it start with its own arsenal? And sign the treaty banning land mines?

Ron Jacobs lives in Burlington, Vermont, and has just had his book, The Way The Wind Blew: A History of the Weather Underground, *published by Verso.*

International Feminist Brigade Returns from Havana

End US Blockade Against Cuba

Debra O'Gara

After a 10-day political tour in Cuba and a solidarity conference, 52 women and men from the US, Australia, Canada and South Africa returned home vowing to publicize and oppose what they call the US government campaign of lies, misinformation and aggression aimed at destabilizing the island nation.

The International Feminist Brigade, jointly sponsored by Radical Women and the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) traveled and worked in Cuba from September 20 to October 2. While there, brigade members visited rural provinces, saw community clinics that provide universal free healthcare, toured state-run low-cost daycare centers and met with trade union leaders. They also discussed with leading Cuban feminists the accomplishments of Cuba's 1959 revolution and the impact the US embargo and Helms-Burton Act has had on women and children. In addition, the brigade distributed more than 900 pounds of material aid to many places including hospitals, vaccine research clinics and women's centers.

Feminist Solidarity Conference resolves to heighten defense of Cuba's revolutionary gains

The conference, which was a highlight of the Brigade tour, was held September 26 and 27. Leaders of the FMC and Radical Women shared the podium and reported on the history of their organizations' fight for women's liberation, on the connections between race, sex, sexuality and class oppression, and on the decisive leadership role of women in building international socialism. They discussed ways both organizations can work together to advance the worldwide solidarity movement in defense of Cuba.

Carolina Aguilar Ayerra, a keynote speaker and editor of *Mujeres* Magazine, told brigadistas about women's role during the Cuban revolution. "From the very beginning, the principal was established that women should demand and struggle for legitimate equality. The concept was precisely we are doing this not because women are helpless but because they had a right to achieve a new status."

From the very beginning, the principal was established that women should demand and struggle for legitimate equality.

Magalys Arroches, the FMC's director of foreign relations, chronicled Cuba's changes in healthcare. "We believed that to obtain a high level of health care was not only an institutional task of the health ministry, but a task of the masses to raise our health parameters. We trained doctors and nurses, and built hospitals in the most remote places where people used to die because they couldn't reach a doctor." Arroches explained that today, Cuba's infant mortality rate is an impressively low 7 babies per 1,000 and that children receive 11 different vaccinations.

This working conference concluded with unanimous adoption of an action-oriented resolution calling for the participants to carry our coordinated activities aimed at publicizing the effects of the blockade on Cuba and demanding its immediate end, taking the resolution to feminist groups and labor unions for adoption, pushing the US AFL-CIO to change its current support of the blockade, and publicizing and participating in the International Solidarity Encounter Among Women Conference in Havana in April 1998.

Brigadistas witness the US economic war on Cuba

During their 10 day tour of the City of Havana and three provinces -- La Habana, Matanzas and Pinar Del Rio, brigadistas saw first-hand the devastating impact of the Helms Burton Act, which forbids US trade with Cuba, severely limits travel, and restricts the commerce with Cuba of other nations that trade with the US.

"This vicious and immoral law, combined with the loss of trade from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc countries beginning in 1990, has produced life-threatening conditions for the Cuban people," reports International Feminist Brigade Coordinator and Native American attorney Debra O'Gara. "Buildings are collapsing for lack of materials and equipment to repair them. These shortages have created a critical lack of housing and offices. Families are living three generations in one home, with as many as 14 people to a room. The severe paper shortage -- from toilet paper to typing paper -- makes everyday life difficult and places severe restrictions on the distribution of newspapers and other written materials."

"Food, cooking oil, clothing and incendiary supplies such as soap, toothpaste and sanitary napkins are in short or no supply everywhere," observed Emily Woo Yamasaki, New York City's Brigade Committee Coordinator. "Women, still largely responsible for domestic duties in the home and child rearing, have a double burden in trying to make ends meet while maintaining a job outside the home." Yamasaki states that more day care centers would offer much needed relief, however, "building projects of all kinds are stalled for lack of materials."

Mujeres, the FMC's progressive women's magazine that is distributed throughout the country, is suffering due to the severe paper shortages. Mary Ann Curtis, Seattle Brigadista and photographer for the *Freedom Socialist* newspaper, notes that *Mujeres* was forced to stop publishing regularly from 1990-1996, and now is published quarterly instead of every month. Circulation has been reduced from 300,000 to 100,000, with approximately five people sharing each issue that comes off the press.

Leaders from the Cuban Trade Union Council met with a small delegation of brigadistas and discussed the common struggles of workers. All vowed to keep working together against the US trade embargo.

Health care and education top the list of national priorities

(Continued next page)

(Brigadistas, continued)

In spite of its scarce resources, Cuba provides free education and health care from birth until death and takes great pride in its low infant mortality rate and extremely low incidence of birth defects. A doctor in the city of Santa Cruz del Norte told brigadistas that underweight pregnant women are given food baskets to supplement their diets.

"If you want to experience a humane society that is run by and for the people, go to Cuba," urges Shawna Hellenius of Vancouver, BC "Never in my life have I seen medical and educational personnel work together like this to plan and do the best they can for children and women. Day care centers and schools in Havana, as well as in small towns, all had doctors and nurses on site who paid close attention to each child's development. The staff ration at a school for the disabled was one to one. A psychiatric hospitals' primary treatment for patients included involving them in meaningful collective work and social and cultural activities, not pumping them up with drugs and rendering many lifeless. An AIDS sanitarium urged patients to live with their partners and involved both in the work of the center which had festive cultural events and displays of beautiful art work made by the patients."

Where people come first, Why brigadistas defend Cuba

"Unlike the resource rich US, where the few are allowed to accumulate more than they need while the majority have very little, Cuba put people's needs first and share the scarce goods and materials with everyone," says Debbie Brennan, Radical Women Organizer in Melbourne, Australia. "Cuba's socialistic programs give us all a glimpse of life without capitalism. Women and men have equality before the law, the community enforces laws against discrimination and sexual assault, abortion is legal, workers have a say about the national economic plan, and elections are democratic."

Court Upholds Conspiracy Charges Against FBI Agents & False arrest charges against Oakland Police

No Immunity For FBI In Earth First! Bombing

Redwood Summer Justice Project

Oakland, CA — In a key ruling in the Earth First! bombing case, U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken refused to grant immunity from prosecution to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Oakland Police Department (OPD) for their mishandling of the 1990 car bombing of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney. The civil rights lawsuit, filed in 1991, charges the FBI and OPD with false arrest, illegal search and seizure, and conspiracy to violate their first amendment right to organize for social change.

Judge Wilken's ruling could be the most significant victory yet for the activists, clearing the way to take this landmark civil rights case to a jury trial.

Wilken upholds the illegal search charges and agrees there is "substantial showing of deliberate falsehood or reckless disregard of the truth" on behalf of the police agents.

Key points of Judge Wilken's ruling

Wilken's ruling states plaintiffs have made an adequate showing that the FBI and Oakland Police deliberately misrepresented clear evidence regarding the location and makeup of the bomb in order to justify the false arrest of Bari and Cherney. Wilken also upholds the right to sue individual officers and agents for illegal searches, and a conspiracy to "chill plaintiffs' advocacy on behalf of Earth First!" in violation of their first amendment rights. She found that FBI special agents Frank Doyle, John Reikes, Stockton Buck, John Conway, Walter Hemje, and Philip Sena and Oakland Police Lt. C. Michael Sims, Sgt. Robert Chenault, and Sgt. Michael Sitterud must stand trial for what Bari and Cherney assert were deliberate attempts to disrupt, discredit and intimidate Earth First!

The ruling states that plaintiffs have made a reasonable showing that the Oakland Police had no probable cause to arrest Judi Bari, who according to police records was placed in custody just three hours after the explosion. Further, Wilken upholds the illegal search charges and agrees there is "substantial showing of deliberate falsehood or reckless disregard of the truth" on behalf of the police agents. She states that without the misrepresentation of the facts, including the false characterization of Bari and Cherney as violent terrorists, the magistrate would not have granted the search warrant.

The strongest language in the ruling deals with the assertion that the FBI engaged in a conspiracy to violate Bari and Cherney's First amendment rights. She upholds these charges, stating that the FBI supplied false or misleading information to the OPD that contributed to the false arrest and illegal searches. According to Wilken, "A jury could infer from this evidence that defendants...acted out of animus towards Plaintiffs advocacy."

Judge Wilken however, dismissed from the case FBI COINTELPRO specialist Richard W. Held, who was the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco FBI office at the time of the bombing. Despite his history and expertise in counterintelligence aimed at political activists, including direct involvement in the well-known FBI COINTELPRO campaigns against the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement, Held claims that he was unaware of the misconduct of the agents under his supervision and of the FBI operation against Bari, Cherney and Earth First! Plaintiffs are appealing this part of the decision.

The ruling also provides for the lawsuit to continue in the name of the estate of Judi Bari, in light of her death of breast cancer on March 2, 1997.

The Earth First! Bombing Case

On May 24, 1990, a motion triggered anti personnel bomb exploded beneath environmental/labor activist Judi Bari's car seat as she drove through Oakland, California with fellow activist Darryl Cherney. Bari & Cherney were the two most prominent organizers for Earth First! Redwood Summer, a campaign of non-violent protests targeting corporate logging practices.

Instead of trying to find the bomber, the FBI and Oakland Police had the activists arrested and then attempted to frame them on charges of transporting the very explosives that were used to try to kill them. The arrest directly contradicted the physical evidence, and ignored previous death threats against the pair. The bomber remains at large.

The Plaintiffs allege that the conspiracy against Bari and Cherney was part of a larger FBI COINTELPRO operation against them and Earth First! COINTELPRO, the FBI's notorious counterintelligence program, was ordered disbanded in the 1970's after the Church hearings by the U.S. Senate found the practice unconstitutional. COINTELPRO is an FBI program designed (in the words of J. Edgar Hoover) to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit and otherwise neutralize" activists and groups advocating social change in the U.S. The case of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney shows clearly that COINTELPRO is alive and well in the '90s.

The full text of U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken's October 15th decision, dramatic police photos, and the original motion by the Plaintiffs are all are available on the Redwood Summer Justice Project web site a http://www.monitor.net/~bari.

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A Radical History of Portland Labor

Greg Bye

Portland's Radical "Teens"

Portland's pre-WWII labor history is probably not as earth-shaking as, say, those of Seattle and San Francisco -- two cities which are in some ways similar to Portland. For instance, Portland had no powerful labor leaders like Dave Beck and Harry Bridges. Furthermore, again unlike its two peers, Portland workers never organized a general strike. On the other hand, a Portland general strike almost happened, in conjunction with the West Coast Longshoremen's (ILA) strike of 1934. But even though a general strike was avoided, the union movement in Portland became much stronger afterwards.

While still in the early stages of research on the subject, my hunch is that the potential was great for a Portland general strike during the "teens" (roughly 1913-1919) -- a period marked by major labor struggles in the United States. However, unlike 1919 Seattle, one did not take hold because Portland's agents of repression managed to contain the radical activism.

During the era in question, the IWW (Wobblies), a radical labor organization, was active in Portland. And naturally it was a target for repression. The painter Mark Rothko (b. 1903) grew up in a Portland working class neighborhood when the IWW was in its agitating and organizing prime. Rothko once told an interviewer that, in his youth, Portland's streets were filled with IWW orators. No doubt, he was referring to the IWWs free speech fights, where a person would get on a street-corner soapbox and begin talking about the evils of America's political and economic system, and the need for radical unionism. The speaker was usually removed and arrested by the police. But as soon as the soapbox was vacant, another speaker would occupy it. The jails were eventually filled, but the train of speakers continually rolled. The short-term goal of the free speech fights was to persuade city governments to throw out anti-union organizing (free speech) ordinances. The goal was achieved often. (At one free speech fight in Portland, the prominent Portland anarchist Dr. Marie Equi was arrested for criticizing the contemporary social order. But apparently the arrest did not stop her activism. Four years later, in 1917, she was arrested at an anti-war rally for calling The Great War (WWI) "The Great Barbecue!")

The IWW was also strong among the workers in the nearby sawmills and with the loggers who toiled in the Oregon Outback. And, as one can imagine, radical labor organizing was not appreciated by the owners. In fact, it was perceived not only as a threat to profits, but, by 1917, also to national security. For, as history teaches, despite President Wilson's 1916 campaign rhetoric, the U.S. was preparing for war. And besides the need to have labor on America's side, certain kinds of timber were deemed vital to the war effort.

Appeals to the patriotism of workers, and promises of fat paychecks after "we win the war" were fairly successful in keeping labor in line. As for the IWW, which wanted no part in any militarism or collaboration with business classes, the federal Espionage Act of 1917 was used to imprison most of its leaders, and hundreds of its field organizers and ordinary cardholding members.

After the war, the Palmer Raids (1919-1921) were designed to destroy the left in America. The climate created by Attorney General Palmer's hysterical witch-hunts for political dissidents (reds) was, according to John Dos Passos, far worse than that of the 1950's McCarthy-era.

In Portland, the IWW union hall on SW Lincoln, near Mark Rothko's home, was raided and closed down. Wobblies were arrested; some were later given prison sentences and/or deported. All over the nation, radical "reds" received similar treatment. America's left was dealt a serious blow. (The IWW did remain a major "left" organization until around 1925, largely through pressuring for the release of those imprisoned "For Reasons Of State."

The West Coast dock employers sued to end the strike. They offered to recognize the Longshoremens and negotiate a contract in good faith, if the workers returned.

The Great Longshoremen's Strike of 1934

In February 1934, delegates representing 14,000 West Coast Longshoremen, met in San Francisco and drafted a uniform contract proposal for their respective employers. The main demands were:

1. Recognition of the new Longshoremen's union (ILA) as the sole bargaining agent for that industry.

2. Union control of hiring (a closed shop, not the *On The Waterfront* type of hiring them in vogue.)

3. A substantial wage increase (to $1.00 per hour).

4. A six hour work day.

The employers refused to negotiate, confident that they could break the union -- as Portland shipyard bosses had done during a strike in 1922. Instead they began hiring replacement workers. The ILA went on strike.

The Portland ILA had carefully prepared for a strike months prior to the May 9th walkout. Allies were found among small business owners -- especially small grocers -- with farmers, and fellow labor organizations.

The support of grocers and farmers assured the ILA that shortages of food would not pose a problem. Tillamook farmers supplied freshly dug clams, while other farmers gave meat and produce. (Besides the collective experience of assisting striking workers, another, more tangible outcome of the Great Strike of 1934 for Portland-area farmers was that the progressive United Farmers League (UFL) increased its Washington County Membership -- Portland's westerly neighbor -- from 0 to 700.)

Throughout the 1920's and early 1930's, most Portland strikes were broken because otherwise sympathetic workers crossed the picket lines of unions that they were not members of. But for this strike, the ILA got pledges of support from several local unions. Eventually, eight unions joined the ILA on the strike line.

Economic activity at Portland's shipyards came to a virtual halt soon after the ILA walked off the job. Great numbers of picketers prevented replacement workers from passing through, even with police escorts. And not only was business adversely affected on the docks, for sympathy strikes and informational pickets were sprouting up throughout the city -- including the entrances of major department stores (like Meier & Franks, a store of which the governor of Oregon was a major stockholder.)

With the ILA maintaining a stranglehold on Portland's docks, efforts to break the strike intensified. The National Guard was mobilized, and deployed to areas outside of the city. A special police force was even created to help end the strike. All along the coast, including Portland, business owners were putting the squeeze on elected officials to request federal assistance in ending the strike (on terms favorable to the owners). But President Roosevelt felt that, since it was the employers who forced the ILA to strike, they could settle the strike without his help.

In San Francisco, the local ILA's situation was far worse than Portland's. There, the National Guard, a special force, and vigilantes, with considerable deadly force, ended the strike on San Francisco's docks. To prevent the ILA from being destroyed, and restore momentum to the unions, the San Francisco Central Labor Council (CLC) called for a general strike. The rank and file accepted.

As San Francisco was shutting down, the Portland CLC, in solidarity, appointed a committee to draft a general strike resolution for Portland. But before a vote could be taken, the West Coast dock employers sued to end the strike. They offered to recognize the ILA and negotiate a contract in good faith, if the workers returned.

Within two months, a contract was signed, with provisions close to the ILA's original demands -- for instance, an hourly wage of $0.95. And for the next few years, workers used wildcat strikes to ensure employer compliance with the contract. Another development in the aftermath of the "strike of '34" was that many textile factories, sawmills, and other Portland area workplaces organized and won union contracts.

For most of the information on Portland's version of the Great Longshoremen's Strike of 1934, I am indebted to Bigelow and Diamond's "Agitate, educate, organize." Oregon Historical Society *Spring, 1988.*

CONSUMER RIGHTS

As A Tenant:

All tenants have a basic right to a livable dwelling. The Washington Residential Landlord-Tenant Act requires that every landlord:

- **Maintain the premises to comply with health and safety codes.**
- **Make repairs and keep the premises in good condition.**
- **Keep any common areas reasonably clean, sanitary, and safe from defects.**
- **Keep the premises reasonably clear of insects, rodents and other pests.**
- **Provide adequate locks and keys.**
- **Maintain all electrical, plumbing, heating and other facilities and appliances in good working order.**
- **Maintain the premises in reasonably weather-tight condition.**
- **Provide garbage cans.**
- **Provide adequate heat, water and electricity.**
- **Provide the tenant with the name and address of the landlord in writing.**
- **The right to a livable swelling includes the right to have continuous utility service. Utilities may only be turned off by the landlord for a reasonable time to make repairs. If the utilities are shut off for other reasons or are kept off for an unreasonable time, you may sue in small-claims court. Your landlord must make repairs involving water, heat, electricity or conditions hazardous to life within 24 hours or receiving written notice of the problem. Most other problems must be corrected within 10 days of written notice of the repair problem.**
- **The landlord cannot refuse an apartment or otherwise discriminate against you on account of your race, sex, religion, or creed.**
- **The landlord must give you notice before entering your apartment, except in an emergency.**
- **The landlord may not retaliate against you for exercising basic rights, such as complaining to a government agency. Your landlord may not use self-help eviction (throwing or locking you out.) In order to evict you, the landlord must first give you written notice explaining why he or she wants you out. If you don't move out, the landlord must then file a court action to order you out. This is called an "unlawful detainer" action.**

If you sign a written lease or rental agreement, be sure it states clearly everything you have agreed to. Read and understand this document before you sign it. Insist that the landlord provide you with a copy of the lease. You and the landlord can always agree to cross out or add words. If you do, make sure both of you initial the changes.

For complaints and/or inquiries about housing codes, call the local city or county zoning or building departments.

Thurston County Tenants Union Meeting Thursday, Dec.18th 7pm Olympia Timberland Library, downtown 413-4438

Facts On Women In America's Prisons

• Over a million and a half people are forced to live in cages in America; approximately 116,000 of those people are women.

• At present there is significantly higher growth in the rate of incarceration of females than of males in the United States. According to U.S. Department of Justice statistics, in 1980 there were 13,269 women imprisoned throughout the U.S.; by 1995 that number reached 68,477; in 1997 that number exceeds 116,000.

Studies suggest the common profile of the imprisoned female to be a young, single mother with few marketable skills: a high school dropout who lives below the poverty level. Seventy-five percent are between the ages of 25 and 34, and an estimated ninety percent have an alcohol or drug-related history.

• Eighty percent of women are convicted of non-violent drug or property crimes. The motivation of many of these crimes is often family-related due to the prevalent social and economic conditions of poverty. Many women are charged as accessories to crimes committed by male relatives or companions often without the knowledge of the women.

• Many experts attribute the sharp rise in female incarceration rates to the advent of mandatory minimum sentences for drug law violations. Convictions on offenses for which defendants used to receive probation may now result in decades-long imprisonment or even life without the possibility of parole.

• Although a greater number of white women than women of color are arrested, black women are eight times more likely than white women to be sent to prison. It is widely believed that black women are disproportionately represented in the following areas of legal abuse: "over-arrested, over-indicted, under-defended, and excessively sentenced."

• Mothers constitute more than eighty percent of the women in prison.

When mothers do time, their children do time with them. Nationwide an estimated half-million children are separated from their imprisoned mothers. The decades-long sentences, which are now common, can either entirely wipe out the reproductive lives of young female prisoners or prevent them from playing any role in the lives of their children as they grow from infancy to adulthood. Children of incarcerated mothers are more prone to become ensnared in the vicious cycle of musical-chairs foster care, juvenile detention centers, and, ultimately, prison.

• Conditions for women in prison are physically and psychologically brutal in ways particular to women's prisons. Male guards are typically assigned to prisons for females, who have great difficulty in defending themselves physically and legally from sexual coercion and assault, which is common and which routinely results in pregnancy.

Source: D.C. Coalition

Envelope decoration by Alfred Rivera

Books to Prisoners Special Requests

- *Before the Mayflower* by Bennett
- *The People's History* by Howard Zinn
- *Marcus Garvey* by Mary Lawler
- Native American Animal Meaning
- Books on recycling for home builders
- Books on Native American tribes (i.e., blackfoot crow)
- Civil War books
- *Trail of Tears*
- *Cages of Steel* by Vanderhall/Churchill
- Books on how to cut hair (especially for African-Americans)
- Scrabble dictionaries
- Swahili/English dictionary
- *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* by Millman
- Books written in Cambodian/Cambodian/English dictionaries
- *The Isis Papers* by Francis Cress Welsing
- Books about Malcom X, James Baldwin, John Edgar Wideman
- Books on African-American and Latino Histories

Thank you to both **The Sustaining Fund** for a $300 grant toward 40 Spanish/English dictionaries and 50 English dictionaries, and to **Orca Books** for their 25% discount to the purchase of these dictionaries and their continuing support.

Books for Prisoners:

There was a book sale at work and I picked these up (slightly used-but in good shape!).

I sure appreciate what you are doing for the prisoners. My man is in prison (out-of-state) and he appresciates everything he gets! So many folks have no one. to care about them.

Thanks again for what you all do.

Anonymous

B to P note: Thank you! Your donation of paperback dictionaries and Black history was perfect! We need lots of book scouts like you everywhere!!

Prison Voices Requested

W.I.P. seeks articles, artwork from those in prison. Please send submissions to:

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507-0295

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:
Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

Books to Prisoner Special December Events

• Friday, Dec. 12th, 9pm - Backstage at Capitol Theater concert with: Behead the Profit, Stella, LLP and from Tacoma BOTCH. $5 ($1 off for food book donation) All ages welcome

Saturday, Dec. 13th, 7:30 pm, Lecture Hall 1 TESC - Benefit Performance with Artis the Spoonman and action humorist Lief Olson. Tickets in advance $6 (general), $5 (student) at Postiviely 4th Street, Rainy Day Records and TESC Bookstore. Admission at the door is $8 (general) $6 (students) with $1 off for donation of a good book.

• Open Work Session every Thurs. 3-9 pm. We need lots of help answering letters and wrapping packages.

• Buy Food! Eat Hearty! Help Books to Prisoners. Bring us all the grocery receipts you can from Bayview and Ralph's Thriftway (dated from Apr. 1997 - Dec. 1997). The project will receive 1%, every penny helps! You can even mail them. (see address below)

• Soup to Soap it all helps! Save the UPC code from any Western Family product bring or mail these to us at B to P, 116 E 4th Ave. Olympia WA 98501

• Books and donations can be dropped off at our workspace above Bulldog News.

In the Spirit of Giving...

consider a gift that helps free the mind and feed the spirit.

Books to Prisoners is a non-profit group that sends educational and reading materials free of charge to inmates across the country. We receive over 800 requests per month and urgently need funds for postage, office supplies and paperback dictionaries.

You can help. This holiday season give the gift of knowledge and hope. Send a donation in the name of your friends, loved ones or from yourself and we'll send an information packet on the BTP program and a card acknowledging your generosity.

Here's what your gift can do!

$5 ..... sends books to four prisoners
$10 ..... sends books to eight prisoners
$15 ..... provides 7 much needed dictionaries
$25 ..... buys one case of wrapping tape
$35 ..... buys one roll of wrapping paper
$50 ..... sends books to 44 prisoners
$100 ..... sends books to 88 prisoners

Books to Prisoners, Olympia Support Group
116 E. 4th Ave., Olympia WA 98501 (above Bulldog News)

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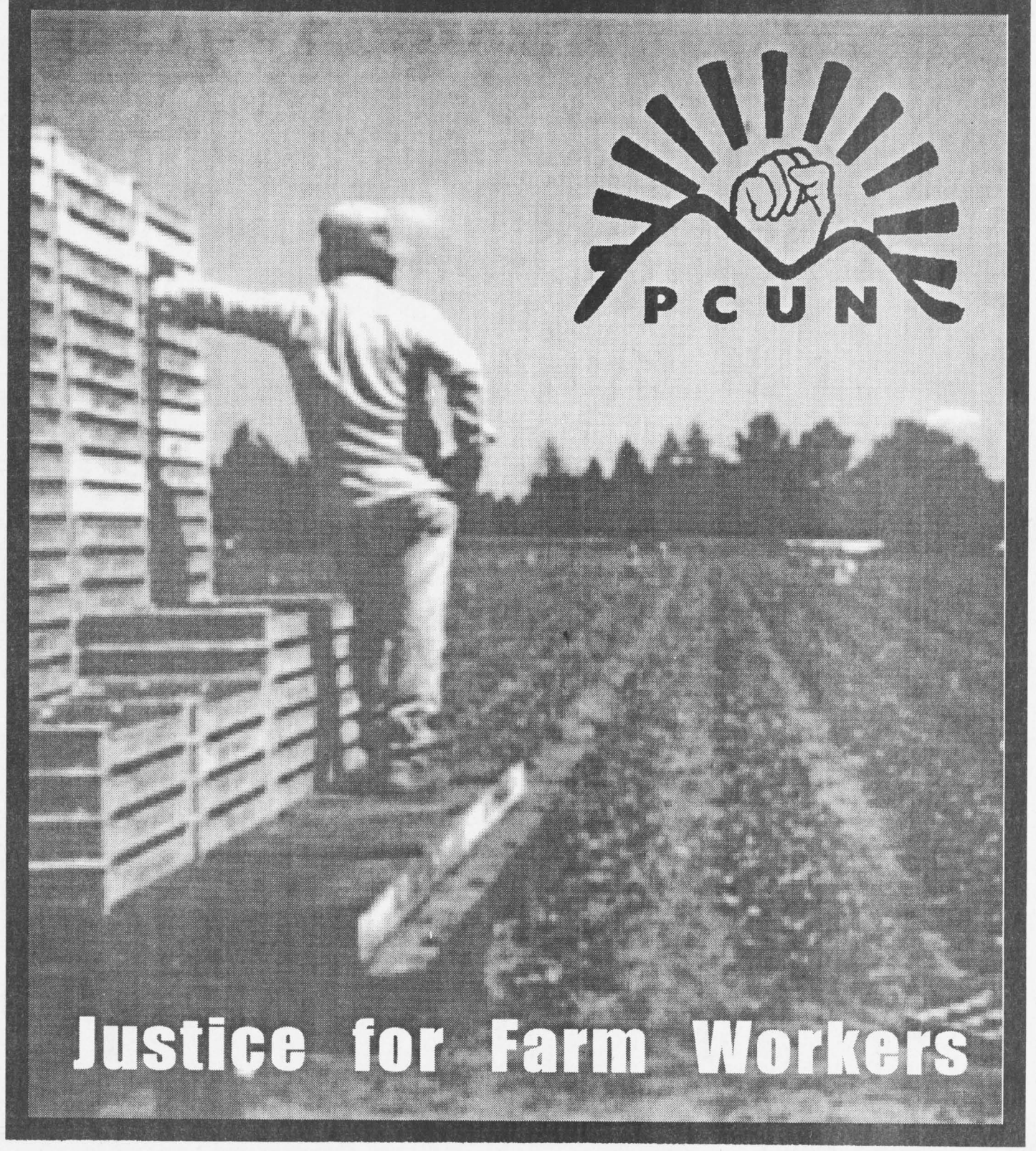

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4 Along the Color Line Death of Integration

6 Teen Theatre Group *Handful of Truth*

8-9 Raising the Spirit of Affirmative Action

10 APEC and NAFTA

12 IRAQ and CUBA

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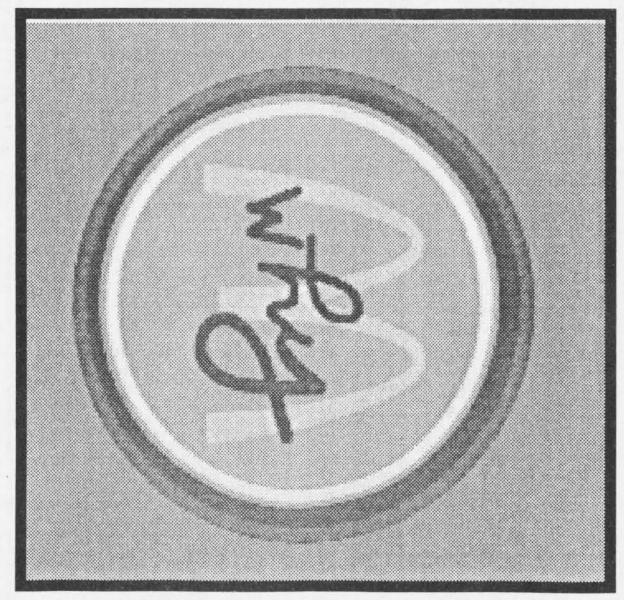
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